

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8583

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR CH UR

SUBJ: PRC PRESS COMMENTARY CASTIGATES THE SOVIETS

SUMMARY: THE LATEST SALVO IN THE RECENT STREAM OF HARD-HITTING CHINESE POLEMICAL ATTACKS ON THE SOVIETS IS A LENGTHY NCNA CORRESPONDENT'S ARTICLE ON JANUARY 3. OUR PRIMARY INTEREST IN THE ARTICLE LIES IN ITS CONTINUATION OF THE STANDARD STRONG PRC INVECTIVE AGAINST THE SOVIETS, SUGGESTING THAT THE RETURN OF THE HELICOPTER CREW IS NOT BEING FOLLOWED BY ANY SOFTENING OF THE PUBLIC PRC POSTURE VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIETS.
END SUMMARY

1. THE SIX -PAGE PLUS ANTI-SOVIET DIATRIBE, ENTITLED "SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM- - THE MOST DANGEROUS SOURCE
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OF WAR", PREDICTABLY CONTENTS THAT THE DANGER OF WAR

BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS IS VISIBLY GROWING AND THAT WAR BETWEEN THE TWO IS BOUND TO OCCUR "SOMEDAY". IT AGAIN LABELS THE SOVIETS AS "PRECISELY THE MOST DANGEROUS SOURCE OF WAR TODAY". THE COMMENTARY POSITS THAT THE INEVITABILITY OF WAR STEMS FROM THE DENIGRATION OF THE SOVIETS SOCIAL SYSTEM OWING TO THE RENEGADE KRUSCHEV-BREZHNEV CLIQUE'S USURPATION OF PARTY AND STATE POWER, PURSUANCE OF A REVISIONIST LINE AND RESTORATION OF CAPITALISM.

2. THE US, IT ASSERTS, HAS "FALLEN FROM ITS PRIME AND GOES DOWNHILL WITH EACH PASSING DAY". THE SOVIETS, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE NOW FEVERISHLY ATTEMPTING TO MILITARIZE THEIR ECONOMY AND, ALTHOUGH LAGGING BEHIND THE US IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SPENDING MORE THAN THE US ON ARMS.

3. THE ARTICLE MAINTAINS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE FOLLOWING A "WAR ECONOMY " READY FOR BOTH NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL WAR. (HOWEVER, IT SUGGESTS THAT THE LATTER IS MORE LIKELY TO OCCUR). THE SOVIET REVISIONISTS, MOREOVER, ARE SAID TO HAVE BECOME "INCREASINGLY UNRESTRAINED IN MAKING A SHOW OF FORCE AND THREAT OF FORCE". IT CONTENDS THAT "SURPRISE ATTACKS", ARE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE IN SOVIET PLANNING. THERE ARE ALSO THE USUAL ASSERTIONS THAT EUROPE IS THE KEY POINT OF US-SOVIET CONTENTION AND THAT THE VIGILANCE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLES AND NATIONS IS HEIGHTENING.

4. THE COMMENTARY CONCLUDES WITH A REFERENCE TO THE MAO DICTUM THAT IMPERIALISM AND ALL REACTIONARIES -- IN PARTICULAR THE SOVIET REVISIONISTS -- ARE "PAPER TIGERS". THE ARTICLE NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT THIS STATEMENT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FROM A LONG-TERM AND STRATEGIC VIEWPOINT. THE END RESULT, OF COURSE, IS THE PREDICTABLE VICTORY BY THE PEOPLE AND DESTRUCTION OF THE SOVIET SOCIAL -IMPERIALISTS.

5. COMMENT: THE PRC POLITICAL GESTURE IN RETURNING THE SOVIET HELICOPTER AND CREW HAS NOT BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY ANY LETUP IN THE STREAM OF CHINESE POLEMICAL ATTACKS
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ON THE SOVIETS. THIS MOST RECENT PIECE, THE LONGEST NCNA ARTICLE WE HAVE NOTED FOR SOME TIME, INDICATES CLEARLY THAT THE PRC MEDIA'S CONDEMNATION OF THE SOVIETS HAS NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY CREW'S RETURN. THUS, THE PRC TREATMENT OF SINO-SOVIET AFFAIRS FURTHER SUGGESTS THAT PEKING'S DECISION TO MAKE A POLITICAL GESTURE AND RETURN THE DETAINED SOVIET HELICOPTER AND CREW WAS, AT LEAST IN PART, DESIGNED PUBLICLY TO TOSS THE BALL FOR ANY IMPROVEMENT IN SINO-

SOVIET STATE-TO-STATE RELATIONS INTO MOSCOW'S COURT.
CROSS

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